

Braintree & Docking Urban District

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

A. P. KALRA

M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1949

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Braintree :
The Shearcroft Printing Co., Ltd.
Market Place

Braintree & Bocking Urban District

Public Health & Housing Committee

D. F. HUNNABLE, Esq., *Chairman*.

S. H. WOOD, Esq., *Vice-Chairman*.

C. E. FULBECK, Esq.

P. C. HASLER, Esq.

P. C. LEGG, Esq.

R. C. MABBS, Esq.

H. W. G. QUINTON, Esq.

B. W. WILKIN, Esq.

D. SMITH, Esq., *ex officio*.

F. APPLETON, Esq., *ex officio*.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health

W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(until June, 1949).

A. P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

(from November, 1949).

Chief Sanitary Inspector

S. F. Bayley, F.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,

Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

J. F. LEAH, M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods.

Clerical Assistant

G. A. NASH.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
TOWN HALL,
BRAINTREE.
July, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1949 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Braintree and Bocking Urban District.

The birth rate was 16.2 and the death rate 11.2 per 1000 of estimated resident population.

The incidence of infectious disease was very low, and there were no confirmed cases of Poliomyelitis in the District.

The section on the General Provision of Health Services has been almost entirely rewritten, setting out the Services provided by the Essex County Council as the Local Health Authority, the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, and the Essex Executive Council.

Housing is still the most urgent Public Health problem in the District as will be seen by the fact that although 105 families were housed by the Council during 1949, the waiting list for Council houses at the end of 1949, was in the region of 900.

I should like to thank the members of the Council, the Council's Officers, and, in particular, the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. KALRA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
TOWN HALL,
BRAINTREE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the Sanitary Inspection of the Urban District for the year 1949.

The hygienic preparation of food and the condition of food premises again received a good deal of attention and apart from the remedying of various defects indicated in the report, much helpful advice was given in an effort to restrict practices which are contrary to clean food production. This method of giving individual attention where needed is not so spectacular as the formation of Clean Food Guilds, but plays an important part in the raising of standards in the trade. The marked improvement in the hygienic quality of ice cream produced in the area during 1949 is, I believe, an indication of the higher standards existing in the food trade as a whole.

The great majority of food handlers, I am pleased to say, showed a keen interest in our efforts and were most co-operative. There are, of course, a few who still cling tenaciously to outmoded methods, particularly the kettle on the gas ring as a means of providing hot water.

Inspections in connection with the repair of houses under the Housing Act and Public Health Act was on a similar scale to that of last year, but there was considerable delay in carrying out works of repair after orders had been given by owners and many notices were outstanding at the end of the year.

With regard to sub-standard houses, the Housing Act of 1949 which was placed on the statute during the year under review offers an excellent opportunity to bring the higher category sub-standard houses up to modern standards.

In conclusion, I thank you for your interest and support in the activities of the Department, and acknowledge the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health, my own staff and fellow officials.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area in acres | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,811 |
| Estimated resident population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17,450 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to rate books | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,386 |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | ... | £100,299 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | £401 |

Social Conditions

There are several fairly large industrial establishments in the Urban District, engaged mainly in the manufacture of iron and steel products and textiles. These industries provide employment for large numbers of workers, both male and female, from the Urban District and the adjacent Braintree Rural District.

During 1949, there was no question of the general health of the community being adversely affected by unemployment as there was virtually no unemployment.

VITAL STATISTICS

In Table I on page 6 are set out extracts of the Vital Statistics of the District for the ten year period 1940-49 in regard to the estimated mid-year populations, and the local and national birth and death rates for each year during that time.

Deaths

The death rate in the Urban District was 11.2 per 1000 of estimated resident population. The Comparability Factor of 0.87 for the District indicates that the local death rate is lower than that of England and Wales as a whole, after adjustment for the proportion of the different age groups in the population.

Table II on page 7 gives the Causes of Death of residents of the District during the year, according to sex, whether death occurred inside or outside the Urban District. The information for this Table has been furnished by the Registrar General.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system account for approximately 45% of all deaths during the year, and cancer was the second in importance as a cause of death.

The nett deaths of persons dying in 1949 whose normal place of residence was within the Urban District, whether death occurred within or outside the District were distributed in age groups as shown below.

| All ages | Under 1 year | 1 and under 2 | 2 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 35 | 35 and under 45 | 45 and under 55 | 55 and under 65 | 65 and under 75 | 75 and upwards |
|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 189 | 11 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 30 | 46 | 75 |

The proportion of deaths in the age groups from 65 upwards is gradually increasing year by year. The percentage of the total deaths in the age groups 75 and upwards was 40.

Births

In the year 1949, there were 308 live births in the Urban District, and these were as follows :—

| | Male | Female |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Total | 166 | 142 |
| Legitimate | 161 | 134 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 8 |

The birth rate was 16.2 per 1000 of estimated resident population. This rate is the same as that of last year.

Still Births

There were five still births registered in 1949 and these were as follows :—

| | Male | Female |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Total | 3 | 2 |
| Legitimate | 3 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | — | — |

The still birth rate per 1,000 total (i.e. live and still) births was 16.

Infant Deaths

There were 11 deaths of infants under one year in 1949, and these were made up as shown below :—

| | Male | Female |
|--------------|------|--------|
| Total | 5 | 6 |
| Legitimate | 5 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | — | — |

The Death Rate for infants under one year of age was as follows :—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births ... | ... | ... | 35.7 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... | ... | ... | 37.3 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... | ... | ... | — |

The infant deaths were due to prematurity and congenital heart disease, broncho-pneumonia, septicaemia and gastro-enteritis.

TABLE I.
Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1949 and Previous Years.

| Year | Population estimated mid-year | BIRTHS | | | DEATHS | | | | | | | | | | Natural Increase (excess of Births over Deaths) |
|------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|------|----------------------------|-----|---|
| | | NETT | | | Total Number Registered in District | TRANSFERABLE | | - NETT | | | | | | | |
| | | Number | Rate | Rate England & Wales | | Of non- residents registered in District | Of residents not registered in District | Under 1 year of age | | | At all ages | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Rate per 1000 nett births | Rate England & Wales | Rate England & Wales | Number | Rate | Rate England & Wales | | |
| 1940 | 15,810 | 232 | 14.6 | 14.1 | 378 | 211 | 13 | 16 | 68.7 | x 57 | 179 | 11.3 | 14.4 | 53 | |
| 1941 | 15,820 | 221 | 13.9 | 13.9 | 338 | 162 | 18 | 13 | 58.0 | x 60 | 194 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 27 | |
| 1942 | 15,920 | 231 | 14.5 | 15.6 | 322 | 150 | 29 | 10 | 43.3 | x 51 | 201 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 30 | |
| 1943 | 15,620 | 249 | 15.9 | 16.2 | 321 | 157 | 27 | 10 | 40.2 | x 49 | 191 | 12.2 | 13.0 | 58 | |
| 1944 | 15,400 | 309 | 20.0 | 17.7 | 316 | 150 | 22 | 10 | 32.3 | x 45 | 188 | 12.2 | 12.7 | 121 | |
| 1945 | 16,200 | 275 | 17.0 | 15.9 | 276 | 123 | 33 | 14 | 50.9 | x 46 | 186 | 11.5 | 12.6 | 89 | |
| 1946 | 16,680 | 323 | 19.37 | 19.1 | 225 | 94 | 35 | 4 | 18.6 | x 43 | 166 | 9.9 | 12.0 | 157 | |
| 1947 | 17,070 | 310 | 18.16 | 20.5 | 247 | 84 | 44 | 10 | 32.3 | x 41 | 207 | 12.1 | 12.3 | 103 | |
| 1948 | 17,180 | 278 | 16.2 | 17.9 | 230 | 65 | 39 | 9 | 32.4 | x 34 | 204 | 11.9 | 10.8 | 74 | |
| 1949 | 17,450 | 308 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 232 | 79 | 36 | 11 | 35.7 | x 32 | 189 | 11.2 | 11.7 | 119 | |

x Rate per 1,000 'related births'.

TABLE II.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the new abridged list of causes of death as used in England & Wales and contained in the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death.

| Cause of Death | Male | Female |
|--|------|--------|
| Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | — | — |
| Scarlet fever | — | — |
| Whooping cough | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 4 | 1 |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | — | 1 |
| Syphilitic disease | — | — |
| Influenza | 4 | — |
| Measles | — | — |
| Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis | — | — |
| Acute infectious encephalitis | — | — |
| Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) uterus (F) | — | 1 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | 2 |
| Cancer of breast | — | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 9 | 9 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 3 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 15 | 18 |
| Heart disease | 25 | 27 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | — | — |
| Bronchitis | 4 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 4 | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 2 | 1 |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years | 1 | — |
| Appendicitis | — | 1 |
| Other digestive diseases | — | 3 |
| Nephritis | 2 | — |
| Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis | — | — |
| Other maternal causes | — | — |
| Premature birth | 1 | 3 |
| Congenital malformation, birth injury, infantile disease | 3 | 2 |
| Suicide | 1 | — |
| Road traffic accidents | — | — |
| Other violent causes | — | 1 |
| All other causes | 9 | 19 |
| All causes ... | 90 | 99 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers

For list see page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Witham and for the Rural Districts of Braintree and of Dunmow, and Assistant County Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

Dr. W. J. Moffat left in June to take up his new appointment as Area Medical Officer to the South East Essex Health Area.

Dr. A. P. Kalra commenced his appointment as Medical Officer of Health to Braintree, Witham and Dunmow Districts in November.

The Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council, by arrangement with the other local authorities concerned, provide office accommodation in the prefabricated annexe of the Town Hall, Braintree, for the Medical Officer of Health. The Sanitary Inspector's Department is also housed in the same building which is a self-contained unit for the activities of the Public Health Department.

Services Provided by the Essex County Council

Care of Expectant & Nursing Mothers

Regular ante-natal and women's welfare clinics are held, with a lady doctor in attendance, at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road, Braintree.

Care of Young Children up to School Age

Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the Combined Treatment Centre, Braintree, and monthly at the Bocking Village Hall. Injections for Diphtheria Immunisation are given, with the parents' consent. Children requiring treatment are referred to the local general practitioners, hospitals, or appointments given for the dental, orthopaedic and eye clinics provided at the Braintree Centre.

Care of School Children

Regular school medical inspections are carried out and the children with defects are referred for treatment. A monthly clinic is held for the reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic.

Health Visiting

The Health Visitors visit the homes of young children, act as school nurses and help at the clinics at the Combined Treatment Centre.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery

These services are carried out by the District Nurse Midwives resident in the area.

Domestic Help Service

Application for domestic help should be made to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford. This service is not provided free of cost.

Ambulance Facilities

The whole of the ambulance services are under the control of the Essex County Council and a 24-hour service is available.

Care of the Aged and Infirm

Residential accommodation is provided at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree, and at Stisted Hall.

Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of milk and ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 61, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Examination of milk samples from the District are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is provided by the Essex Institute of Agriculture at Writtle near Chelmsford.

Chemical examination of foodstuffs are undertaken by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

Services provided by the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Board and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Braintree population are the William Julien Court-auld and St. Michael's Hospitals, Braintree ; the hospitals in Chelmsford, Colchester, Black Notley and Broomfield. A chest clinic is held weekly at the Combined Treatment Centre, Braintree, and treatment for Venereal Disease is available in Chelmsford and Colchester.

Services provided by the Essex Executive Council

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, this Council provides the general Medical, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic services through the family doctors, dentists, chemists and opticians in the area.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of infectious disease in the Urban District in 1949 was very low. Only two cases out of a total of 87 notified, were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths. Particulars as to numbers and ages of the cases, other than tuberculosis, for the year are given in the Table on page 12. A few brief comments are made on some of the infectious diseases.

Diphtheria

For the fifth year running there were no confirmed cases of diphtheria in the Urban District. This proves the value of diphtheria immunisation in infants and school children.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

During the epidemic of poliomyelitis throughout the country, there were no confirmed cases in the Urban District. One case was suspected and admitted to hospital for observation.

Typhoid

The one case of typhoid which occurred was in a seaman from a tanker which returned to England in November after a trip to the Persian Gulf. The patient was ill on arrival in Braintree and admitted to the Julien Courtauld Hospital where the diagnosis was made. The patient responded well to the new drug chloromycetin and there were no further cases in the District.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified and the standard of hygiene in catering establishments was good.

Non-notifiable Diseases

63 cases of chicken-pox occurred among the children at Chapel Hill School during October, November and December. None of the children were seriously ill and the school was kept open all the time.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported during the year and of deaths from the disease in the District are set out in the table below :—

| Age Periods (Years) | | | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | | | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-respiratory | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0—1 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—10 | ... | ... | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10—15 | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—20 | ... | ... | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20—25 | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35—45 | ... | ... | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 45—55 | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | | | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Totals | ... | | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 |
| | | | 10 | | 2 | | 5 | | 1 | |

At the end of the year there were 117 cases on the Tuberculosis Register of the District and these were as follows :—

| Males | | Females | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 64 | | 53 | |
| Respiratory | Non-respiratory | Respiratory | Non-respiratory |
| 50 | 14 | 33 | 20 |

Housing priority is given by the Council to the families in which there are members suffering from an infective form of tuberculosis.

Disinfection of premises and bedding are offered to householders after the death or removal of an “open” case of tuberculosis. No charge is made for this service.

HEALTH EDUCATION

This subject is becoming an increasingly important part in the work of a Medical Officer of Health. During the 750th Anniversary Celebrations’ week an opportunity was taken to show several films on health matters.

Throughout the year posters were exhibited at the Braintree Combined Treatment Centre.

Personal advice and lectures were given by the Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors and the Medical Officer of Health.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Notified in 1949

| Notifiable Disease | Number of Cases Notified | | | | | | | | | | | | | Cases admitted To Hospital | Total number of Deaths |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | At ages—years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | At all Ages | Under 1 year | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | 15—20 | 20—35 | 35—45 | 45—65 | 65 and over | | |
| Whooping Cough ... | 26 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 5 | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles ... | 48 | — | — | 7 | 5 | 8 | 23 | 4 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Typhoid fever ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Infective Hepatitis ... | 6 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 87 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 33 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The public water supplies of the Urban District, were, in 1949, derived exclusively from the Council's two existing sources of supply at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks.

The supplies continued to be subjected to chlorination before passing into supply. At Notley Road Works gaseous chlorine was employed and at Bocking a hypochlorite solution. Estimations of the amount of residual chlorine present in the mains, i.e. after passing through the storage tanks, are made as a routine.

The water from both sources of supply is sampled regularly for bacteriological examination. This examination is made both of the raw water and of the water as supplied to consumers, i.e. after chlorination.

The number of such samples taken by the Council's Officers during the year was as follows :—

| | Raw Water | Water in Supply | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Notley Road Waterworks | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Bocking Waterworks | 4 | 5 | 9 |

All the above samples were reported upon by the Laboratories as being of satisfactory quality, consistent with a pure and wholesome water supply suitable for public supply purposes.

Samples for chemical examination were also taken and copies of typical chemical and bacteriological analyses are given below.

Sample from Notley Road Waterworks

Date of Sample 15.3.49.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| <i>Appearance</i> | Clear and Bright. | | |
| <i>Colour (Hazen)</i> | Nil | <i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i> | Nil |
| <i>Reaction pH</i> | 7.8 | <i>Odour</i> | Nil |
| <i>Electric Conductivity at 20°C.</i> | 1750 | <i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i> | 6 |
| <i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i> | 420 | <i>Total Solids, dried at 180°C.</i> | 1165 |
| <i>Hardness Total</i> | 125 | <i>Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate</i> | 285 |
| <i>Carbonate (Temporary)</i> | 125 | <i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i> | Absent |
| <i>Non-carbonate (Permanent)</i> | 0 | <i>Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.</i> | 0.15 |
| <i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i> | 0.0 | <i>Fluorine</i> | 3.5 |
| <i>Free Ammonia</i> | 1.4 | <i>Other Metals</i> | Absent |
| <i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i> | 0.000 | | |
| <i>Metals Iron</i> | Less than 0.03 | | |

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in—
 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.
 0 0 —

Presumptive Coliform Reaction—

Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

Bact. coli.—

Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction—

Present in — Absent from —

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality, and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness is very moderate, and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution, although high, is normal for this source. It is of the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity, consistent with a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

The content of fluorine is, however, rather higher than is considered desirable.

*Signed, ROY C. HOATHER,
The Counties Public Health Laboratories.*

Sample from Bocking Waterworks

Date of Sample 21.3.49.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance Bright with a very slight deposit consisting of finely divided silicious particles.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Colour (Hazen)</i> | Nil | <i>Turbidity (Silica Scale)</i> | |
| <i>Reaction pH</i> | 7.4 | | Less than 5 |
| <i>Electric Conductivity</i> | | <i>Odour</i> | Nil |
| at 20°C. | 910 | <i>Free Carbon Dioxide</i> | 17 |
| <i>Chlorine in Chlorides</i> | 120 | <i>Total Solids, dried at</i> | |
| <i>Hardness Total</i> | 310 | 180°C. | 610 |
| <i>Carbonate (Temporary)</i> | 295 | <i>Alkalinity as Calcium</i> | |
| <i>Non-Carbonate</i> | | <i>Carbonate</i> | 295 |
| (Permanent) | 15 | <i>Nitrogen in Nitrites</i> | |
| <i>Nitrogen in Nitrates</i> | 0.0 | | Less than 0.01 |
| <i>Free Ammonia</i> | 0.56 | <i>Oxygen absorbed in</i> | |
| <i>Albuminoid Ammonia</i> | 0.000 | 4 hours at 27°C. | 0.05 |
| <i>Metals Iron</i> | 0.11 | <i>Fluorine</i> | 1.4 |
| | | <i>Other Metals</i> | Absent |

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in—
 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.
 0 0 —

Presumptive Coliform Reaction—

Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

Bact. coli.—

Present in — Absent from 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction—

Present in — Absent from —

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard. Its content of fluorine is not excessive.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

*Signed, ROY C. HOATHER,
The Counties Public Health Laboratories.*

The public supply is not liable to have a plumbo solvent action.

No action in respect of contamination was required in 1949.

Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information regarding the amount of water pumped during 1949.

| | Gallons |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Notley Road Waterworks | 148,403,750 |
| Bocking Waterworks | 71,124,000 |
| Total ... | <hr/> 219,527,750 <hr/> |

The supply was adequate for the present needs of the District.

Based on a total population of 17,450 and allowing for 180 persons occupying 58 houses in the Urban District which do not obtain a supply from the public mains, the above figures represent for the whole year an overall consumption of 34.83 gallons per head per day. The amount of water supplied through meters for trade and agricultural purposes was 31,439,000 gallons which is equivalent to 4.95 gallons per head per day, leaving a net consumption per head per day of 29.88 gallons for domestic purposes, compared with 28.19 gallons in 1948.

In 1949 the water mains were extended to serve the southern extremity of Notley Road and for new houses in Panfield Lane. A new three inch main was laid in Thistley Green Road to replace an ordinary service pipe and to enable further properties to receive the public supply. There were four new connections to the mains in addition to services provided for new houses.

Future Water Supply Requirements of the District

At present it is estimated that 17,270 persons who occupy 5,328 houses are served by public mains.

Of these approximately 139 houses with an estimated population of 440 are served by 61 standpipes 54 of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 58 houses with private supplies only 38 of these being piped inside.

As the proportion of modern houses rises in the district and sub-standard houses are improved the demand for water will increase.

The Council in pursuance of their policy to secure sufficient water to meet the anticipated future demand applied for a licence to sink a new borehole at Codham Mill, Shalford, but the Minister of Health refused the licence after a Local Inquiry had been held, thus the two schemes which the Council have put forward during the past three years have failed to receive the necessary sanction and the problem of future water supplies for the area remains unsolved.

Additional extraction of water from the Notley Road Works is undesirable owing to the high fluorine content alone.

Drainage and Sewerage

A new sewer was constructed to serve ten houses in Panfield Road formerly drained to cesspools and a sewer extended in Panfield Lane to serve new houses.

It is anticipated that the new surface water sewer for the Bartram Avenue area will be constructed in 1950.

Braintree Sewage Disposal Works

It was not possible to commence the improvements to these works during 1949 and the effluent discharged during the year continued to be unsatisfactory.

Bocking Sewage Disposal Works

Four samples of effluent for analysis were taken by the Essex County Council, two of which were unsatisfactory.

Rivers and Streams

Continuous pollution of the River Brain occurs due to the effluent from Braintree Sewage Disposal Works. The same stream received occasional pollution from industrial establishments above the outfall.

During the year pollution by oil was detected in the River Brain the oil having gained access to a small watercourse on land owned by one of the Statutory Undertakings. It was found necessary to serve a notice on the owner of the land and temporary measures were put in hand to prevent pollution, which, by the end of the year had reached considerable proportions.

Public Cleansing

The weekly collection of household refuse and salvage continued throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor.

The tip at Rifle Hill was again used for the disposal of refuse. It was found necessary to treat the tip towards the end of the summer for a slight infestation of crickets.

Sanitary Inspection of the District

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1949, the following inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed :—

| <i>Nature of Inspections</i> | <i>Primary Inspections</i> | <i>Revisits</i> | <i>Total Visits</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Housing—Housing Act ... | 36 | 71 | 107 |
| Housing—Public Health Act ... | 95 | 236 | 331 |
| Other Visits—Housing Act ... | 25 | 16 | 41 |
| Other Visits—Public Health Act ... | 385 | 357 | 742 |
| Infectious Diseases ... | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Water Supply and Sampling ... | 22 | 1 | 23 |
| Dairies and Cowsheds ... | 45 | 34 | 79 |
| Milk Sampling ... | 40 | — | 40 |
| Food Preparing Premises including Bakehouses ... | 73 | 61 | 134 |
| Ice Cream Premises and Vendors ... | 22 | 23 | 45 |
| Ice Cream Sampling ... | 45 | — | 45 |
| Meat and Food Inspection :— | | | |
| (a) Slaughterhouses ... | 802 | 85 | 887 |
| (b) Shops ... | 56 | 8 | 64 |
| (c) Meat Depot. ... | 51 | 1 | 52 |
| (d) Markets ... | 57 | — | 57 |
| Factories Act (Power) ... | 15 | 31 | 46 |
| Factories Act (Non-Power) ... | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Shops Act ... | 45 | 21 | 66 |
| Drainage ... | 57 | 77 | 134 |
| Smoke Abatement ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Overcrowding ... | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Common Lodging Houses ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Movable and Temporary Dwellings ... | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Knackers Yard ... | 9 | — | 9 |
| Vermin Infestations and Pest Control ... | 30 | 43 | 73 |
| Rat Infestations ... | 20 | 17 | 37 |
| Swimming Baths and Sampling ... | 19 | 5 | 24 |
| Rivers Pollution ... | 12 | 74 | 86 |
| Interviews with Owners/Builders etc. ... | 68 | — | 68 |
| Miscellaneous ... | 196 | 20 | 216 |
| | 2257 | 1202 | 3459 |

(2) Notices Served, etc.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of Informal Notices served ... | 306 |
| Number of Informal Notices complied with ... | 261 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served ... | 23 |
| Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... | 23 |

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances Found

(a) Housing

| | |
|--|----|
| Defective roofs, Rainwater pipes, etc. ... | 57 |
| Other external defects ... | 36 |
| Damp walls ... | 8 |
| Internal Defects ... | 61 |
| Defective yard paving ... | 1 |

(b) *General*

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures ... | ... | 18 |
| Houses without dustbins ... | ... | 3 |
| Houses with defective dustbins ... | ... | 164 |
| Offensive accumulations ... | ... | 1 |
| Vermin infested houses ... | ... | 12 |
| Contraventions of Factories Act ... | ... | 3 |
| Contraventions of Shops Act ... | ... | 5 |
| Defects etc. in food preparing premises ... | ... | 8 |
| Other Nuisances ... | ... | 7 |

(c) *Drainage*

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|
| Choked drains and W.C.'s ... | ... | 20 |
| Defective drains ... | ... | 4 |
| Defective soil pipes or vents ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective manholes ... | ... | 2 |

(4) Nuisances Abated and Work Done

(a) *Housing*

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Roofs, rainwater pipes, etc. repaired ... | ... | 39 |
| Other external repairs ... | ... | 25 |
| Dampness in walls remedied ... | ... | 3 |
| Internal repairs ... | ... | 40 |

(b) *General*

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| W.C.'s and structures repaired ... | ... | 19 |
| Houses provided with dustbins ... | ... | 3 |
| Defective dustbins renewed ... | ... | 163 |
| Vermin infested houses cleansed ... | ... | 12 |
| Vermin infested articles cleansed ... | ... | 5 |
| Other nuisances abated ... | ... | 6 |
| Contraventions of Factories Act remedied ... | ... | 7 |
| Contraventions of Shops Act remedied ... | ... | 4 |
| Defects, etc. in food preparing premises remedied | ... | 8 |
| Premises treated for Insect Pests ... | ... | 4 |
| Disinfection of Property following Infectious Diseases | ... | 13 |
| Disinfection of Bedding following Infectious Diseases | ... | 1 |

(c) *Drainage*

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Choked drains and W.C.'s cleansed ... | ... | 34 |
| Defective drains repaired ... | ... | 4 |
| Defective soil pipes or vents repaired ... | ... | 1 |
| Old drains tested ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective manholes repaired ... | ... | 3 |

Factories Act, 1937

I. INSPECTION for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises (1) | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 17 | 11 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 69 | 46 | 3 | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 86 | 57 | 3 | — |

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary convenience (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) insufficient | 1 | 2* | — | 1 | — |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | 2 | 5* | — | — | — |
| (c) not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 3 | 7 | — | 1 | — |

*Additional defects remedied as a result of written notices served in 1948.

There are 31 Outworkers in the District, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Shops Act, 1934

Forty-five inspections and twenty-one revisits were made under Section 10 of this Act. Informal notices were served in respect of the following defects :—

| | Found | Remedied |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Unsuitable sanitary conveniences | 3 | 1 |
| Insufficient washing facilities | 2 | 2 |

Work is proceeding which will remedy the two unsuitable sanitary conveniences.

During the year, certificates of exemption from the provision of sanitary accommodation were granted in respect of two shops.

Movable Dwellings

There is only one licence operative for the siting of more than one caravan. This site was not used during 1949.

Two licences were granted each in respect of single caravans for specified periods.

Swimming Baths

Two open-air swimming pools, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year. Samples of the water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. Field tests for available chlorine were also carried out and the filtration plants inspected in order to control the quality of the water in the pools.

Conditions for open-air swimming were the best for many years and all samples of the water, including those taken during 'peak' bathing periods, were satisfactory. Experiments with break point chlorination were carried out at the Council Pool and the resulting analyses showed a consistently high standard of bacterial purity.

Insect Pests

Bed Bugs

Twelve infestations were treated with five per cent. D.D.T. solution in kerosene during 1949. Steam treatment was given to bedding where necessary. Of these infestations four were found in Council houses, two in old houses under Council administration and the remaining six in privately owned properties.

Six of the infestations were brought to light during the routine examination of premises occupied by families about to become tenants of Council houses. Re-inspections were made to treated premises after varying periods.

Crickets

Towards the end of the summer it was found necessary to treat the Council's Tip for crickets. A few dwelling houses in the vicinity were also treated with D.D.T. solution at the same time.

Wasps

Eight wasps' nests were destroyed.

Rodent Control

The services of a full-time Rodent Operator were again shared with three neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50% of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Ten per cent. of the sewer manholes of both Braintree and Bocking sewers were baited with negative results :—

The work done during 1949 is as follows :—

| Type of Infestation | No. of Infestations | Estimated Killed | No. of Bodies picked up |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Reservoir | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Major | 22 | 1185 | 93 |
| Minor | 52 | 625 | 38 |
| Mice | 18 | — | — |
| Total | 92 | 1810 | 131 |

HOUSING

The Council completed a further 63 houses during the year and 12 houses were built by private enterprise. During the post-war period 550 new houses have been completed by the Council giving accommodation for 566 families.

A further 81.63 acres of land for building was acquired by compulsory purchase during 1949.

With regard to sub-standard houses only slight progress can be reported. Four houses were demolished as a result of informal approach to the Owners under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, the Council rehousing the tenants in two cases. Eight houses which were the subject of Clearance Orders before the war were also demolished.

The following Table gives a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1949 :—

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

- (1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 131

| | |
|---|-----|
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 4 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (2) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 107 |
| 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :— Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action | 58 |
| 3. Action under Statutory Powers :— Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (a) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| (b) Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit after service of formal notice :— By Owners | 2 |
| By Local Authority in default | 0 |
| Public Health Act, 1936. | |
| (c) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 9 |
| (d) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects remedied after service of formal notice | 7 |
| 4. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished by Owners as a result of informal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act. 1936 | 4 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Prior to the 1st October, 1949, when new legislation governing milk production and distribution came into force, the following were registered in the District for the production and/or sale of milk :—

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Number of Wholesale Producers | 11 |
| Number of Producer-Retailers | 6 |
| Number of Retailers | 10 |

Thirteen of the seventeen producers and producer-retailers held licences issued by the Essex County Council for the production of designated milk as follows :—

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Tuberculin Tested Milk | 11 |
| Acerdited Milk | 2 |

The Urban District Council issued the following licences :—

| | |
|--|---|
| Licences to bottle T.T. milk | 3 |
| Licences to sell T.T. milk already bottled | 6 |
| Dealers licence to sell Pasteurised milk | 1 |

After the 1st October, 1949, new registers of milk distributors and dairies were compiled. In common with most local authorities it was found administratively impossible to issue dealers and supplementary licences for designated milks under the new regulations for the last three months of 1949.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The following Table shows the results of samples of milk, both designated and undesignated, which were submitted for the Methylene Blue and B. coli tests as prescribed for Accredited and Tuberculin Tested Milk. The Table does not include samples taken by the County Council's Inspectors from premises producing designated milk.

| Class of Milk | Number Sampled | Satisfactory on both tests | Unsatisfactory on | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | | Both tests | Meth. Blue. | B. Coli. |
| T.T. | 11 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Ungraded | 16 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

Nine samples of pasteurised milk were subjected to the Phosphatase Test and the Methylene Blue Test. Two of these samples failed the Phosphatase Test indicating insufficient heat treatment. These samples were test samples from a retailer applying for a licence to pasteurise milk. Before suggested adjustments in the plant could be carried out, the business changed hands and the new owner has not pursued the matter.

Five milk bottles were submitted for bacterial count, one of which failed to reach the required standard.

Unsatisfactory samples produced in the Urban District were followed up in all cases by inspection of premises and supervision of the handling of the milk and further sampling carried out.

Ice Cream

During the year four local manufacturers of ice cream and twenty-three vendors thereof were retailing from shops in the Urban District. All were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. In addition vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex operated in the District.

Frequent inspections of manufacturers' premises were made and periodic inspections of vendors' premises and vendors' vehicles were carried out.

In the spring of 1949 a communication was sent to each local manufacturer setting out briefly the purpose of ice cream sampling together with notes, designed for reference, on approved methods of sterilising utensils and equipment. The circular was well received and may have had a bearing on the general improvement in the hygienic quality of ice cream produced in the District during the year.

Forty-five samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

| <i>Manufactured in District</i> | <i>Manufactured outside District</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Thirteen in Provisional Grade I | Seven in Provisional Grade I |
| Seven in Provisional Grade II | Six in Provisional Grade II |
| Two in Provisional Grade III | Two in Provisional Grade III |
| Four in Provisional Grade IV | Three in Provisional Grade IV |
| (One sample broken in transit). | |

The results show a considerable improvement upon those obtained in 1948. In 1949 nearly 77% of the samples taken from ice cream manufactured locally were in Provisional Grades I or II compared with 43% for 1948.

Of the four samples falling in Grade III, two had a sufficiently low bacterial count to be classified as satisfactory by the bacteriologist and one sample Graded IV was also considered of passable bacterial standard.

Three of the four samples from local manufacturers which were Graded IV were from the same producer. Considerable attention and supervision was given to the production of ice cream at this manufacturer's premises and subsequent samples showed improvement.

Meat

The Ministry of Food have continued to use two slaughterhouses in this Urban District. Meat inspection is carried out by the Council's Inspectors and all animals slaughtered during the year were examined by them.

There is no organised system of ante-mortem inspection in the case of animals sent to the slaughterhouses through collecting and grading centres, and no proper facilities exist for this purpose, but the majority of such animals are seen by the meat inspectors, either

in the market or in the lairage at the slaughterhouses, and any necessary action in respect of market rejects or animals showing signs of illness is taken.

In the case of animals sent to the slaughterhouses as "casualties" these are, or should be, accompanied by a certificate from a veterinary surgeon. These certificates, it must be said, are often in such vague terms as to be of little use to the meat inspector in his post-mortem inspections. However, all animals sent in as casualties are, with few exceptions, seen by the inspector before slaughter with a view to assisting him in his post-mortem inspection, the few exceptions being those animals whose condition calls for immediate slaughter and which arrive at times when the inspectors are otherwise engaged.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year :—

| | Cattle excluding cows | | Sheep and Lambs | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|-------|--------|
| | Cows | Calves | Lambs | Pigs | |
| Number Killed | 1257 | 479 | 1173 | 2802 | 469 |
| Number Inspected | 1257 | 479 | 1173 | 2802 | 469 |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses | | | | | |
| condemned | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| Weight in lbs. | | | | | |
| condemned | 567 | 4008 | 404 | 307 | 1781 |
| Carcasses of which | | | | | |
| some part or organ | | | | | |
| was condemned | 351 | 127 | 16 | 70 | 103 |
| Weight in lbs. | | | | | |
| condemned | 3920 | 2433 | 123 | 151 | 889 |
| Percentage | | | | | |
| affected | 28.00% | 28.18% | 1.88% | 2.68% | 24.52% |
| <u>Tuberculosis only :—</u> | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses | | | | | |
| condemned | 4 | 17 | 1 | — | 5 |
| Weight in lbs. | | | | | |
| condemned | 2369 | 10479 | 77 | — | 969 |
| Carcasses of which | | | | | |
| some part or organ | | | | | |
| was condemned | 147 | 154 | — | — | 23 |
| Weight in lbs. | | | | | |
| condemned | 4029 | 5077 | — | — | 563 |
| Percentage | | | | | |
| affected | 12.01% | 35.69% | 0.08% | — | 5.97% |

The carcases of two beasts were sent for refrigeration treatment after detection of *cysticercus bovis* lesions in the organs.

In addition to the above, the following meat, including home-killed and imported meat, was inspected and condemned at butchers' shops or the wholesale Meat Depot. :—

| | | |
|--------|-----|-----------|
| Beef | ... | 389 lbs. |
| Pork | ... | 902 lbs. |
| Mutton | ... | 47 lbs. |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 1338 lbs. |
| | | <hr/> |

In all cases the unsound meat which was condemned was salvaged for use for trade purposes other than for human consumption.

Horseflesh

Your inspectors carried out the inspection of horseflesh slaughtered for sale for human consumption in the Urban District, all of which is sold in the London area.

Particulars of animals slaughtered and condemnations are as follows :—

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Number of horses slaughtered | ... | ... | ... | 470 |
| Number of horses inspected | ... | ... | ... | 421 |
| Weight of Whole Carcases (five condemned) | ... | ... | ... | 2960 lbs. |
| Weight of Part Carcases condemned | ... | ... | ... | 413 lbs. |
| Weight of Offal condemned | ... | ... | ... | 538 lbs. |

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the District, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Corned Beef | ... | 795 lbs. | Fish | ... | ... | ... | 94 lbs |
| Tinned Milk | ... | 284 lbs. | Pickles, Sauce and | | | | |
| Tinned Meats | ... | 280 lbs. | Salad Dressing | ... | ... | ... | 60 lbs. |
| Tinned Vegetables | ... | 129 lbs. | Sausages | ... | ... | ... | 36 lbs. |
| Tinned Fruit | ... | 45 lbs. | Dried Fruit | ... | ... | ... | 13 lbs. |
| Tinned Fish | ... | 18 lbs. | Cheese | ... | ... | ... | 30 lbs. |
| Tinned Tomatoes | ... | 8 lbs. | Fruit Juices | ... | ... | ... | 10 lbs. |
| Preserves | ... | ... | Poultry | ... | ... | ... | 5 lbs. |
| | | | Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 152 lbs. |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total | ... | 2012 lbs. | | | | | |

Hygiene of Food Preparing Premises

One hundred and thirty-four visits were made to premises engaged in the preparation and handling of food, exclusive of visits made to ice cream establishments and dairies.

As a result of informal action and interviews the following work or improvements were carried out :—

Constant supply of hot running water provided at seven premises.

Cleansing and redecoration of walls and ceilings in food preparation rooms at two premises.

Defective wall plaster repaired and cleansing of walls, floor and fittings carried out in one bakehouse.

Increasing surveillance of all food preparing premises was continued throughout the year. A number of the food premises in the District are situated in old property the construction and layout of which demand more than ordinary care on the part of the occupiers.

No case of serious negligence in hygiene matters was observed during the year and on the whole conditions in the area are good.

Towards the end of the year the Council decided to adopt Model Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Food Poisoning

There were no notified cases of food poisoning during the year 1949.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The provisions of the above Act relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following information :—

| Name of Sample | No. of Samples | Result of Analysis |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Cinnamon | 1 | Genuine |
| Milk | 18 | " |
| Mustard (French) | 2 | " |
| Oats Rolled | 1 | " |
| Pepper, White | 2 | " |
| Parsley and Thyme Stuffing | 1 | " |
| Spice Mixed | 1 | " |
| | — | |
| | 26 | |
| | — | |

